

Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



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## Contents

### Addresses and Remarks

Brady Handgun and Violence Prevention Act, anniversary—2943  
Cabinet accomplishments—2932  
“Invitation to the White House” reception—2939  
Metropolitan law enforcement leaders, meeting—2934  
New York, G&P Foundation Angel Ball 2000 in New York City—2949  
Olympic and Paralympic teams, reception—2941  
Presidential transition—2932  
Radio address—2931  
White House Conference on Culture and Diplomacy—2934  
World AIDS Day—2953

### Communications to Congress

Federal employee locality-based comparability payments, letter transmitting an alternative plan—2950

### Executive Orders

Facilitation of a Presidential Transition—2933

### Interviews With the News Media

Exchange with reporters in the Cabinet Room—2932

### Proclamations

World AIDS Day—2948

### Statements by the President

Chile, negotiations on a comprehensive bilateral free trade agreement—2943  
Deaths  
Henry B. Gonzalez—2943  
Robert G. Damus—2948  
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, anniversary—2942  
Tobacco use and lung and bronchial cancer rates, study—2956

### Supplementary Materials

Acts approved by the President—2958  
Checklist of White House press releases—2957  
Digest of other White House announcements—2957  
Nominations submitted to the Senate—2957

**Editor’s Note:** The Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents is also available on the Internet on the *GPO Access* service at <http://www.gpo.gov/nara/nara003.html>.

## WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

## PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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## **The President's Radio Address**

*November 25, 2000*

Good morning. All across America, friends and families are still savoring the joys—and the leftovers—of a bountiful Thanksgiving. This weekend also marks the traditional start of the holiday shopping season. But even as many of us head out to buy that perfect gift for those we love, millions of Americans are also extending their generosity to people they've never met.

Last year Americans gave a record \$190 billion to charitable causes: to feed the hungry, immunize children, build homes, tutor immigrants, restore parks, and send disaster relief to hard-hit people all around the world. Working with America's extensive network of nonprofit and faith-based organizations, we're making a difference, but we still have more to do.

Today I'm releasing a report from the Council of Economic Advisers that examines this resurgence of charitable giving and outlines proposals to further cultivate public generosity. I'm also announcing the launch of a new \$2 million privately funded initiative designed to introduce more young Americans to the rewards of charitable giving.

Both of these efforts emerged from last year's White House Conference on Philanthropy, which Hillary and I organized to showcase America's great tradition of giving. To keep the momentum going, we also formed a task force on nonprofits and governments which will soon issue a roadmap for creating innovative partnerships between nonprofit organizations and Federal agencies. We're tackling America's toughest challenges together and making the most of the American people's enduring spirit of generosity.

Now, according to the Council of Economic Advisers, charitable gifts now exceed 2 percent of our gross domestic product, the highest level of giving in nearly three decades. Sustained by a strong economy and rising incomes, charitable giving has jumped more than 40 percent since 1995. At the

same time, both donors and charities have become much more sophisticated, often using the Internet for research, education, and, increasingly, to make contributions.

Overall, 70 percent of America's households made charitable contributions last year, even those who didn't have much extra to spare. In fact, half of all Americans with incomes of less than \$10,000 made a charitable contribution. And as a percentage of their net wealth, families with the lowest incomes gave much more than the wealthiest. That's both humbling and inspiring, and suggests a tremendous potential for growth in charitable giving by well-to-do Americans.

This new report also reveals that people over the age of 65 are much more likely to make charitable contributions than younger people, even after accounting for differences in income and wealth. Perhaps, having earned the wisdom of a lifetime, seniors understand that the satisfaction of charitable giving cannot be measured in dollars and cents. And they know that personal generosity is an essential ingredient in the mortar that binds our entire community together.

Given this truth, how can we do a better job of engaging younger Americans in giving? We know already that they care about their communities, because so many are volunteering for local causes. Nearly 150,000 of them have joined AmeriCorps over the past 8 years, dedicating at least a year of their lives to public service.

According to one recent study, this youthful spirit of community can be translated into a lifetime of financial support for worthy causes but only if we engage people early and teach them the importance of philanthropy. With the help and guidance of several major philanthropic organizations, we developed a national blueprint to do just that, the Youth Giving Project.

Building on the success of a program in Michigan, this grassroots initiative will train young people to identify charitable needs in their own communities, teach them how to raise and distribute money to address those needs, and build leadership skills along the

way. It will be coordinated by a nonprofit coalition of experts on youth programs that can provide local groups with training materials, access to a comprehensive web site, and expert advice.

This is just a small investment with a potentially great dividend. The baby boom generation stands poised to inherit \$12 trillion from the World War II generation. And it's likely their children will inherit even more. With that in mind, we need to help younger people recognize their own capacity to do good and help them discover the rewards of generosity.

In this time of prosperity and season of sharing, let's remember: When we give what we can and give it with joy, we don't just renew the American tradition of giving; we also renew ourselves.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:15 a.m. on November 24 in the Laurel Conference Room at Camp David, MD, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 25. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 24 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

## Remarks Prior to a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters

November 27, 2000

### Cabinet Accomplishments/Presidential Transition

**The President.** Let me say, first of all, I called this Cabinet meeting in part just to thank publicly the members of this Cabinet for 8 extraordinary years of service. A number of them have been with me the whole way. And for all of them, I am very grateful.

The policies we have worked on together have been very good for America. They have sparked the longest economic expansion in history. Our welfare rolls were cut in half. We have crime at a 28-year low. And more land has been protected in the lower 48 States than at any time since Theodore Roosevelt's administration almost a century ago. This is a record that all of them can be proud of, and only a small fraction of the record that they established.

Our country is now moving forward. And in the final weeks of this administration, we are committed to maintaining a steady course. That means providing a smooth transition to the next President, whether it is Vice President Gore or Governor Bush. As you know, an appropriate legal process is now underway. That process will take a few more days to play itself out. Our job is to do what we've done for 8 years now, to focus on the business at hand.

That is why I'm signing today an Executive order creating a transition coordinating council. The council will provide the President-elect's team with coordinated services, especially regarding personnel matters. This action and other efforts by the Cabinet will well ensure that we are as prepared as we can possibly be for an orderly transition to the new administration. Meanwhile, we will be doing what we can to get ready when Congress comes back to town in a few days.

Thank you very much.

### 2000 Presidential Election

**Q.** Mr. President, do you think Governor Bush was presumptuous in declaring victory last night?

**The President.** Well, I don't think I should comment on what he or the Vice President says. There is an election challenge. Both of them have litigation involved. At least one case involves the U.S. Supreme Court, and the election challenge will play itself out.

I will say what I have said from the first day. In all this interplay, it is easy to lose what is really important, which is the integrity of the voter—every single vote. On election day every person who voted had a vote that counted just as much as mine. So they have to sort that out in Florida—whose vote should be counted; can every vote be counted; if every vote can't be counted, is there a good reason why you're not counting that vote?

And I think those are the things that will be resolved in this election challenge, and I think we just have to let—both sides are very well represented, and they all both have litigation, and we'll just watch it play itself out.

**Q.** Mr. President, so you don't accept Florida's certification of George Bush as the winner?

**The President.** It's not up for me to accept or reject. There is a legal process here. Both of them have filed lawsuits, and the Supreme Court of Florida, when they issued their opinion a couple of days ago, or a few days ago, actually anticipated a challenge. And if you read the opinion, they explicitly acknowledged that it was almost a certainty. So let's just watch this happen. It will be over soon, and we will be ready for the transition.

#### **Funding for Presidential Transition**

**Q.** Mr. President, to what extent were you, or was anyone in the White House staff, involved in the decision by the General Services Administration to withhold transition funding from the Bush/Cheney team?

**The President.** I was not involved in it at all, and as far as I know, no one else here was. But there is a procedure that—we actually went back and reviewed the congressional deliberations on this legislation. And I think the General Services Administration believes that it cannot offer transition assistance to both of them, which is what I would otherwise be inclined to do.

I think they're doing what they think the law requires. But I, personally—I can't answer for anyone else in the White House, but I was personally not involved in it. I think they're trying to do what they think the law requires while this election challenge plays itself out. It won't be long now.

#### **Vice President Gore**

**Q.** Have you spoken to the Vice President at all, or—

**The President.** I talked to him on Thanksgiving, called him and wished him and his family a happy Thanksgiving.

**Q.** But he hasn't called you for advice or anything?

**The President.** No.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:16 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush and Vice Presidential candidate Dick Cheney. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

#### **Executive Order 13176—Facilitation of a Presidential Transition**

*November 27, 2000*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including 5 U.S.C. 7301, to further the purposes of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963, as amended, and to assist the transition from this Administration to that of the President-elect, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1. Presidential Transition Coordination.** (a) To assist and support the transition efforts of the President-elect, there is established a Presidential Transition Coordinating Council (Council).

(b) The Council shall be composed of the following officials or their designees:

1. Chief of Staff to the President;
2. Counsel to the President;
3. Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary;
4. Assistant to the President for Management and Administration;
5. Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Personnel;
6. Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
7. Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
8. Director of the Office of Personnel Management;
9. Administrator of General Services;
10. Archivist of the United States;
11. Commissioner of Internal Revenue;
12. Director of the Office of Government Ethics; and
13. Such others as the President may select.

(c) The Council shall be chaired by the Chief of Staff to the President or his designee.

(d) The Council shall coordinate assistance to the President-elect in fulfilling his responsibilities and make every reasonable effort to facilitate the transition between administrations. This assistance may include, among other things, providing publicly available information relevant to facilitating the personnel aspects of a presidential transition and such other information that, in the Council's judgement, is useful and appropriate as long

as providing such information is not otherwise prohibited by law.

**Sec. 2. Transition Activities and Materials.**

(a) The Administrator of General Services, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Presidential Personnel, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, shall coordinate orientation activities for key prospective Presidential appointees.

(b) The Administrator of General Services, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Presidential Personnel, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and the Archivist of the United States, shall develop a transition directory. The transition directory shall include Federal publications and materials that provide information on the officers, organization, and statutory and administrative authorities, functions, duties, responsibilities, and mission of each department and agency.

(c) The White House Office of Presidential Personnel shall coordinate with all departments and agencies of the executive branch of the Government to produce a catalogue of all positions in their respective jurisdictions that are filled by presidential appointment requiring Senate confirmation (PAS positions). The catalogue shall include:

- (1) the legal authority establishing each PAS position;
- (2) a description of duties and statutory authorities of the position;
- (3) the names of Senate committees that review nominees for the position;
- (4) the names of congressional committees with which appointees in the position regularly interact; and
- (5) the name and contact information of an experienced executive in the agency or department, a previous office holder or a White House Liaison, or a comparable individual who can answer questions about the position.

(d) Executive departments and agencies shall prepare a set of orientation materials for new political appointees before the inauguration of the President-elect. Copies of all such materials shall be provided to the Incoming Transition Team upon its request.

**Sec. 3. Transition Agreement.** To assist and support the transition efforts of the

President-elect, a transition agreement between the current Administration and the Office of the President-elect will be entered into regarding transition procedures and identification of transition contacts.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
November 27, 2000.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 p.m., November 28, 2000]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 30.

**Remarks in a Meeting With  
Metropolitan Law Enforcement  
Leaders**

*November 28, 2000*

Well, first of all, you guys look good on the steps here. [Laughter] Maybe you should just stay all day. It would be great.

I want to thank you for all the help you've given us these last 8 years, in all my many movements and oftentimes in very crowded times of the day and difficult circumstances. And I'm very, very grateful to all of you, and before I left, I just wanted to have a chance to get everybody together and say thank you.

I've had a wonderful time these last 8 years. And I was able to do my job in no small measure because of what you did, and I hope you'll always be glad that you did it.

I thank you very, very much. Merry Christmas.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. on the steps of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

**Remarks at the White House  
Conference on Culture and  
Diplomacy**

*November 28, 2000*

**The President.** Well, thank you very much, and welcome. I want to, first of all, say how honored we are to have all of you here. This is a remarkable assemblage, and I want to thank Hillary and Secretary Albright and all the others who have worked

so hard to put this meeting together today. And I thank those of you who have come from around America and from around the world to be here. And I thank, especially, Senator Leahy and Representative Leach and the members of the diplomatic community who have come.

This is a topic that I care a lot about. I think I should begin by saying that Secretary Albright just spoke to you eloquently, wearing a bolo from the Navajo Nation. I spent—I was just not very long ago on a Navajo reservation in northern New Mexico. But it represents a very distinctive and important part of America's culture, the first Americans.

This conference, I think, comes at a rather pivotal time in human history, because we all think we know what we mean when we talk about cultural diplomacy. You know, you send your artists to us; we send our musicians to you; we all make nice; and everybody feels better. But the truth is that the world is also full of conflict. Indeed, I was seeing Mr. Lithgow out there, and he may have thought that in the last 2 weeks he has returned to the "Third Rock From the Sun." [Laughter]

Let me say what I mean by this. The end of the cold-war, bipolar world and the emergence of a global information society have given rise to two apparently contradictory forces. And what we came here to talk about sort of falls in the middle.

First, you see, as we all get to find our own way at the end of the cold war, the emergence of a huge number of different racial, religious, ethnic, and tribal conflicts within and across national lines that might commonly be called culture wars, if you use culture in a broader sense and not just the sense that most of us use the word.

And secondly, you see how, if they're having a crisis in Russia or an earthquake in China, immediately we all know about it, all around the world, because we live in a global information society. And that means that our musicians, our artists, our movies—particularly here in America, which has been an entertainment capital of the world—go across the world rapidly. And other countries worry about whether we're going to blur all the distinctions between our various cultures and render them meaningless so that they won't have independent power to inform, to en-

lighten, to enrich our own societies and those around the world. Now, these are not exactly new questions, but they are being felt with increasing force because of the end of the bipolar cold-war world and the emergence of the most globalized society the Earth has ever known.

You can put me, as usual, in the optimistic camp. I still believe that the role of culture in the sense that brings us here today will be fundamentally positive, because it will teach us to understand our differences and affirm our common humanity. And that is, after all, the great trick in the world today. Since we don't, you know, have to draw sort of a line in the dust and say you're on one side or the other, the way we did for 40 years after the end of World War II, it is very important that we understand and appreciate our differences and then recognize that, as important as they are, somehow we have to find a way to elevate our common humanity.

That's where cultural diplomacy comes in. And I have certainly benefited from it in terms of my life as President, probably more than any person who ever held this office, in no small measure because of the time in which I was privileged to serve. But I can think of, just in my lifetime, a few examples I might mention that I think are important.

I think it's not an exaggeration to say that Glenn Miller and other American jazz bands had a pivotal effect on the morale of our European Allies in World War II. I think it's probably not wrong to say that Elvis Presley did more to win the cold war when his music was smuggled into the former Soviet Union than he did as a GI serving in Germany. [Laughter] I think it's worth noting that on the morning of Poland's first free election in 1989, voters woke up to find their whole country plastered with posters of my favorite movie, depicting Gary Cooper in "High Noon," with a Solidarity pin where his sheriff's badge should have been. [Laughter] And the gun in his holster airbrushed out. One look and the people knew that the time had come to stand for freedom, nonviolently.

When I was on my state visit to the Czech Republic, Vaclav Havel took me to the jazz club where he used to gather and plot the Velvet Revolution. And I played with some

of the Czech musicians who had been allies of his in that great struggle.

A few years ago in Bosnia, we needed to find a way to teach children how to avoid landmines, so we choose the universal medium of Superman comics. During the darkest days of that war, when books were burned and libraries were shelled, American artists, authors, and performers like the conductor Charles Ansbacher, who is in our audience, traveled to Sarajevo to show their Bosnian colleagues that they were not forgotten.

Even then, cultural diplomacy was a giant step ahead of traditional diplomacy. In 1992, when the time finally came that we could reach out to a democratic South Africa, our path there was forged by the Dance Theater of Harlem.

So cultural diplomacy does have the power to penetrate our common humanity. And I say that not just in terms of the stars but in terms of the way people generally feel. And I was recently on our trip to Nigeria; the First Lady of Nigeria dragged me out onto the dance floor to dance to Nigerian music. And when I was in India, I went to a little village in Rajasthan—Nayla—and the village women got me in the middle of their dancing, and they showered me with thousands of petals of flowers. And I understood, in a way that I never could have read from a book, how they related to the world and what role music and the arts had in their lives.

So I think this is very important. I also don't buy the fact that we know more about each other's culture means that we're all going to be diluted. I think that American culture has been enriched by the rest of the world, and hopefully we've been a positive force on the rest of the world.

In our country, we have the architecture of I.M. Pei or the plays of David Hwang, who is with us today and who reminds us that American art, in many ways, is the art of the rest of the world. Doctor Sam-Ang Sam and his wife, Chan Moly Sam, have also joined us today. They escaped from Cambodia during the reign of the Khmer Rouge and brought to America the gift of Cambodian court dance. It was threatened in the land of its birth, and it is now part of our culture, as well. With the support of founda-

tions like Rockefeller, Ford, and the NEA, they are now returning home to introduce a new generation of Cambodians to their old culture.

I say this to point out that our country really does benefit from this sort of cultural interchange, and I think we can benefit others if, from time to time, we provide a safe haven for cultural preservation. I think this is more important now than it was in the past because of the way the world works, as I have said. I know there are some people who believe that our culture has become too pervasive in the rest of the world. I've encountered this anxiety in every part of the world, from people who don't share our political system's views to those who just worry about the trade impact of American movies or records or other kinds of—or CD's. Many people are absolutely sure that because of globalization, pretty soon their children will be speaking American English, every television will be tuned to MTV, and every French movie will have a happy ending. *[Laughter]*

And in some parts of the world, these kind of fears have fueled a lot of bitterness about the process of globalization. But we can't turn this globalization off. You know, people want to know more about each other. And now they have the means to do it. The Internet is the most powerful means of communication in all of human history.

And I think that globalization, in the end, will be a force for diversity, not uniformity. A week ago I was in Vietnam, where many people are wondering how to open their doors while protecting their traditions. I pointed out that globalization is not just bringing the world into Vietnam, but it also is bringing Vietnam to the rest of the world. Films about life in Vietnam are winning awards over the globe. Paintings by Vietnamese artists command fortunes at international art shows. Fortunately, we were able to find some wonderful ones in Vietnam that don't yet require a fortune to buy. *[Laughter]* Old Vietnamese poems are published in America in English, Vietnamese, and in an ancient script that never before has come off a printing press.

Consider the Nobel Prize in literature, for those who think the world is becoming homogenized. Of the first 80 prizes given out



after 1900, only 5 went to authors outside Europe and North America. Seven of the last 20 prizes have gone to Asian, Latin American, and African authors, including our panelist Wole Soyinka, not simply because the good people of the Nobel Committee are trying to cast a wider net but because we actually do know more about one another than ever before.

And what about this business about language being homogenized? Well, if you get on the Internet, you will find people all over the world chatting in Welsh, downloading fonts in Bengali, ordering courses in intensive Cherokee. With advances in translation and voice recognition technology, before long it will be possible for people to communicate instantaneously on the Internet or even on the telephone in their own languages. Thanks to the Internet, people with similar interests and outlooks can now be dispersed around the world and still form a community.

I tell somebody all the time, I've got a cousin in Arkansas who regularly plays chess with a man in Australia. I don't know how they work out the time change, but this is the kind of thing that is happening. And it will open the avenues for more cultural, even subcultural, diplomacy.

Now, we have some obligations here. We have to do more to close the digital divide so that the poor of the world can participate more readily in this sort of cultural interchange, and we are working very hard on that. We also have to work hard in America to make sure that our contributions reflect the diversity of our culture. We have supported public/private partnerships in recent years, for example, that have sent Andy Warhol exhibits to the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Navajo textiles to Latin America—and the art exchange between regional museums in America and France that Elizabeth Rohatyn has recently organized.

And I do want to support the legislation that has been introduced by Representative Leach, who is here, and Senator Biden to create an endowment to support State Department cultural exchange programs, on top of the funds we're already providing. This will become more and more important.

So I've already said more than I meant to, but I care a lot about this subject. I think you should see this for what it is. It's an opportunity for us to learn more about each other, to understand each other better, to reaffirm our common humanity, and in so doing, not to blur the cultural lines but to highlight them in a way that promote peace and reconciliation and, therefore, put a real roadblock in the path of those who would like a 21st century dominated by culture wars, instead of cultural celebrations.

Thank you very much.

Hillary has to go, and we're giving her a cultural excused absence. She's going to sign copies of her new book. [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, Secretary of State Madeline Albright made brief remarks.*]

**The President.** Well, I think we should basically talk about the first issue that I mentioned, which is preserving diverse cultures in a global economy. I don't buy the argument that we're all going to become homogenized, but I do believe that nations and groups within nations have to work hard to protect their cultures. So I would like to ask you, Highness, to make a few remarks on this subject and thank you for your work.

[*At this point, His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan IV, Imam of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims, made brief remarks. The discussion then continued.*]

**The President.** If I could just follow up a little bit on the Middle East to illustrate your point. One of the most successful things that's been done in the Middle East in the last 10 years is this Seeds of Peace program, which brings together Israeli children with children from all the Arab societies surrounding it. And they do things together; they work together. And if you talk to these kids, you know, the sea change in their attitudes that have been affected about each other, and their understandings of one another because of the way they have lived and worked together, even for brief periods of time—often, I might add, in the United States; they come here a lot and spend time here—is really stunning.

And the flip side of that, to make a particular cultural point, is the profound alienation which occurs when people believe that their cultural symbols are off limits, one to the other, and when even sometimes—in the case of the Palestinian textbooks, what they say about the Israelis is almost designed to create a cultural divide that will maintain solidarity within the society but then makes it harder and harder to create peace and also maximizes misunderstanding.

The one thing that I think ought to be thought about in view of all these cultural conflicts that I mentioned earlier around the world is that the most dangerous thing that can happen in trying to—if you're trying to preserve peace and get people to make progress—is when both sides feel like perfect victims, and therefore, every bad thing that happens they believe happened on purpose. They cannot ever admit the possibility of accidents. People do screw up in politics. So bad things sometimes happen not by design. But if you believe that—but if you see this, you realize how desperately we need some cultural coming together, some means of reaffirmation. And so anyway, the Middle East is a classic example, in both good and bad ways, of the point you just made.

I'd like to call next on Rita Dove, who was our Poet Laureate a couple of years ago, and she was a Fulbright Scholar in Germany. She's lived in Israel; she's lived in Ireland and who knows where else—I think France. And I think she has a unique sort of perspective on this. So I wanted to give you a chance to say whatever is on your mind about the subject.

[At this point, Ms. Dove made brief remarks.]

**The President.** I don't think I can improve on that. I would like to now ask Yo-Yo Ma to make a few remarks. But before I do, I want to say how much I personally appreciate all the times we've shared these last 8 years and the fact that you have chosen, even though many people believe you're the greatest living classical musician, you have chosen to spend an enormous part of your life in the act of cultural diplomacy as a part of your work, playing with Chinese musicians, with Kalahari bush people or, something that I particularly appreciate, your work

with Mark O'Connor on the "Appalachian Suite," which I think is one of the most important pieces of American music in many, many years, uniting the strains of classical music with American hill country music from—which is an important part of my heritage. So you've actually, in a way, made a life of cultural diplomacy, without calling it that, and I'm very grateful to you.

[At this point, cellist Yo-Yo Ma made brief remarks. The discussion then continued.]

**The President.** Well, first of all, I agree with what you said, and I think your remarks lead me naturally into the next question, which is, what is the responsibility of the United States, first of all, to promote our culture around the world and to help to deal with something that His Highness, the Aga Khan, mentioned in the beginning, which is that there are a lot of countries with which we might have cultural exchanges whose artists, whose musicians, whose craftspeople literally can't make a living doing what they do best. And that's something that I think I'm going to think a lot more about. There are no royal courts to support such people anymore—[laughter]—and not every country has an economy which will support them.

So I would like to call now on Joan Spero to speak because she has had an unusual career. She was our Under Secretary of State in my first term. She's been a vice president of American Express and is now president of a major foundation and, I think, has a unique perspective on the roles that private foundations, big corporations, and the United States Government can and should play in this whole area.

So, Joan, would you mind?

[At this point, Joan E. Spero, president, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, made brief remarks.]

**The President.** That was very good. Let me just say one sort of followup point on that. I really believe that our Government and our foundation community have an obligation to try to deal with this point that you made earlier about the capacity of people in developing countries to make a living at their art, whatever it is.

And you mentioned that, but there are all kinds of things we can do to help people market their music, their acting skills, their crafts work, their whatever, in ways that get—first of all, bring them to the attention of a larger audience and, secondly, get more of whatever income can be generated from their activity back to them in their communities than would otherwise be the case if they were—we waited for traditional things to develop. And you know, I think this is very important.

One of the things that I have learned because I've had the chance to be President and go to so many countries and listen to so many people is that most of us who get where we are are there in part by accident, and there is somebody else with a heck of a lot of talent somewhere else that never even gets noticed.

And I think it's very, very important that we think of how we can use our money and organizational and media access capacities to bring the largest number of people possible to the attention of the larger world, because I think that has a very important diplomatic impact. I think that the more people from otherwise isolated groups and cultures are in contact in a positive way with the rest of the world, the less likely we are to have debilitating wars and conflicts and isolation. So that's something I want to think some more about.

I wonder if any of you on the panel or maybe Congressman Leach, who is a sponsor of this bill, or Senator Leahy, if any of you have any specific—specific points you want to make about things we ought to be doing here before we wrap up this section? Anybody else? Wole?

[At this point, Wole Soyinka, recipient, 1986 Nobel Prize in Literature, made brief remarks. The discussion then continued.]

**The President.** Maybe I will just close by following up on what you said, Wole. I believe that this should definitely be a two-way street; we ought to be putting out and taking in here. And I don't have much else to say. I never learn anything when I'm talking, only when I'm listening. [Laughter] Once in a great while when you're talking, you learn something because you didn't really know

what you thought until you brought it out, but not very—[laughter].

I want to thank all of you for being here. This is quite a luminous group we have in the White House today, and we might have had any number of you also on this panel. And so I want to urge you to please fully participate in the remainder of events. Please make the most of it and try to come out of this with as many specific areas of concern as you can.

I thank His Highness, the Aga Khan, for starting out, because he said, look, here are three things you need to really work at, and I think we need to be thinking about this. And I will do my best to put it in the position to be acted upon in the weeks and months ahead. And again I want to thank Senator Leahy and Representative Leach for being here, because they're—along with Senator Hillary—are our sort of lines of continuity to the future American Government. [Laughter]

But this was very interesting to me and quite moving, and I think we ought to close by giving our panelists another hand. [Applause]

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:35 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to actor John Lithgow; President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic; Charles A. Ansbacher, principal guest conductor of the Sarajevo Philharmonic and conductor laureate of the Colorado Springs Orchestra; Stella Obasanjo, wife of President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria; Sam-Ang Sam, musician, and his wife, Chan Moly Sam, dancer, Apsara Ensemble; Elizabeth Rohatyn, co-founder, French Regional and American Museum Exchange; and violinist Mark O'Connor. The transcript made available by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of First Lady Hillary Clinton, Secretary Albright, Prince Karim Aga Khan IV, Mr. Soyinka, Ms. Dove, Mr. Ma, Ms. Spero, and Minister of Culture Giovanna Melandri of Italy.

## Remarks at an "Invitation to the White House" Reception

November 28, 2000

Thank you very much, and good evening. Hillary and I are delighted to welcome all

of you here, and I want to especially thank Carter Brown and Carl Anthony, who I will recognize shortly. I also want to thank Neil Horstman, the White House Historical Association, and the White House Curator, Betty Monkman, for their work to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the White House; and to recognize the members of the Committee for the Preservation of the White House for the renovation and the refurbishment which they have made possible.

I hope that you've all had the opportunity to go on the short tour just before we started—I understand you have—and to see again what an extraordinary place the American people's house really is.

For two centuries now, the American people have looked at the White House as a symbol of our Nation's leadership, strength, and continuity; also a symbol of progress and change. The White House wears its history proudly but is forever growing and changing, along with America. If you think about the history of this room, it's illustrative.

The East Room began life as Abigail Adams' laundry room when she moved into the half-finished house in 1801. A few years later, Thomas Jefferson laid out maps and books with Meriwether Lewis to plot the expedition that forever changed the map of America. In this room Abraham Lincoln lay in state. In this room, a century later, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act.

Hillary and I have had our own opportunities to add to the history of this room, for here we hosted the state dinner, for Nelson Mandela, the first President of a free, multi-racial South Africa. Appropriately, as we enter the new century, the East Room also hosted the first-ever White House cybercast. And just today we held here another in a series of White House conferences, this one on culture and diplomacy. The others have ranged in topics from the new economy to early childhood development in the brain.

Hillary has led the way in meeting our responsibility during these years to preserve and enhance the White House and its collections. As over 1 ½ million people come here every year, Hillary has taken extraordinary steps to ensure that they experience the best

of our past and the promise of our shared future.

She personally oversaw the restoration of several of the public rooms and helped to build and diversify the collection of American art. She established the beautiful sculpture garden in the Jackie Kennedy Garden downstairs and worked with the White House Historical Association to raise a lasting endowment to preserve the White House and its collections. And as we now know, she somehow found the time to chronicle our lives here and how the White House works and makes our lives possible in "An Invitation to the White House."

I hope her book will give millions of our fellow Americans who may never come here a better sense of what is so special about the house, what history tells us about the strength of our nation, and about the remarkable people who actually make this place work, day-in and day-out, year-in and year-out.

The history of this house is the history of brave men and women, from John and Abigail Adams and the men and women who served them, down to the present day. As the White House enters its third century, I hope that all of those who come after us will find, as Hillary and I have, enormous sustenance and strength in the power of this great place.

I must say, it has been an honor to live here, and I can honestly say that there is never a time when the helicopter lands on the South Lawn that I still don't feel the thrill of just being here, of being able to walk in this place, visit the rooms, and relive, as I have so often, the history of our country and what happened in various places in this grand old house. So I thank you all for that.

Now let me welcome J. Carter Brown, who has been a valued artistic adviser to us and, indeed, to every First Family since the Kennedy administration.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to J. Carter Brown, chairman, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts; historian Carl Anthony; and Neil Horstman, executive vice president, White House Historical Association. The First Lady's book, entitled "An Invitation to the White House:

At Home With History,” was published by Simon and Schuster. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

### **Remarks at a Reception for the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams**

*November 29, 2000*

Thank you very much. First of all, Hillary and I are delighted to welcome all of you here. And I want to thank Secretary Shalala and General McCaffrey for being part of our Olympic delegation to Sydney. I thank the United States Olympic Committee President Bill Hybl for being here, and the Olympians who are here with me, who will come up in a moment.

I’m also grateful, I might say, to the people of Australia who did a wonderful job in welcoming our American athletes and organizing these Olympics. And really, I asked all the team here so that I could forgive them for completely destroying my sleep habits for several weeks during the Olympics. [*Laughter*] Like so many Americans, I was thrilled by the accomplishments of these remarkable teams.

I have often said that it seems to me the Olympics capture our imagination not just because we love athletics and love competition but because we think the Olympics and Paralympics Games work the way life ought to work: people work together; if you work hard and play by the rules, you get rewarded; you’re evaluated regardless of race or gender or station in life; individuals and teams find success and wind up winning just by making the efforts.

The Summer Games in Australia were no different than the ones before them. America did very well, once again, with 40 gold medals, 97 overall, more than any other country. And our spirit was put on display there, as one athlete after another overcame tremendous odds to achieve victory, athletes like our diver, Laura Wilkinson, who captured the gold medal just 3 months after breaking three bones in her right foot; Lenny Krayzelburg, who came here from the Ukraine in 1989 and just a decade later won

all three of the backstroke events; the women’s softball team lost three games in a row and still came from behind to win the gold medal; and of course, there was the minor matter of a little farm boy from Wyoming, Rulon Gardner, who defeated Alexandre Karelin.

The Sydney Games broke new barriers, opening gates of competition to people once left behind. More than 4,000 athletes, representing a record 122 countries, competed in this year’s Paralympic Games. Americans like sprinter Marlon Shirley and cyclist Pam Fernandes proved that disability is no barrier to success.

We also reached a milestone for female athletes. A hundred years ago the first women competed at the Paris Summer Olympics. There were 19, and one, the golfer Margot Abbot, became the first American woman to win an American Olympic gold medal.

This year, in the first Olympics of the new millennium, women comprised a record-breaking 42 percent of the participants. And for the first time, women competed in the pole vault, water polo, and weightlifting. I might say I watched the women’s weightlifting and water polo competition with great interest, and after it was over, I couldn’t tell which one was rougher. [*Laughter*] The final American medal of this year’s Olympic Games went to a woman, Emily deRiel, in the first-ever women’s pentathlon. You pushed the limits of the human body and the human spirit.

Every Olympian stands in the starting blocks alone, of course, but no one wins alone. No one wins without family, friends, coaches, and others who have helped you make the most of your God-given ability. I hope that you, each and every one of you, in your own way will take some time to help others make the most of their God-given abilities.

And let me just put in one plug for one public interest matter that I care a lot about. One of the great ironies of the present day is that as Americans fall more and more in love with athletes and athletics, more and more of our young people are participating by sitting on the sidelines or on the couch only. More and more of our young children

are overweight and out of shape, and they are putting their health, long-term, at risk. We have got to turn this around.

This morning Secretary Shalala and our Education Secretary, Dick Riley, led a meeting with our partners to explore the most effective way to implement a report's recommendation that was issued to me today about this—and you may have read about it in the newspaper—more and more young people doing less and less exercise mean more and more overweight. It's going to take a team effort for us to turn this around.

Not every young person can win an Olympic medal or even make the Olympics teams, but every young person has a body that is a gift from God that ought to be maximized in terms of health and capacity. So I ask for your help in that.

Let me just say one final thing. For some of you, your Olympic moment may be now just a wonderful memory in your lives. For others, it is just the beginning of a long and illustrious career in your sport. But for all of you, your training and your achievement will bring a lifetime of benefits. You now know what you can do if you do your best. I hope that these benefits will accrue to you, your community, your country, and the rest of our world.

We must always remember that no matter how many records we break or how fast we run or how high we jump, there are still no limits to our quest for excellence—the Olympic motto from the beginning, *citius, altius, fortius*, swifter, higher, stronger. I hope you will bring that to the work of citizenship as well as to your competition, now and forever.

Congratulations. We are very, very proud of you.

*[At this point, U.S. Olympic Committee President Bill Hybl, International Olympic Committee Vice President Anita L. DeFrantz, and members of the Olympic team presented gifts to the President.]*

**The President.** Thank you. Let me—I don't think I did this right, but the Olympians who gave me the award were Stacy Dragila and Lenny Krayzelburg and Marlon Shirley and Pam Fernandes, and they represent this whole team. And they also made me a little warmer out here today. *[Laughter]*

So I want to thank them for their remarks. I thank all of you for being here. We either are or already have taken a picture with the whole team, and then we're going to go inside and let everybody look at the White House. But thank you very, very much, all of you. Welcome again, and happy holidays.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:45 p.m. on the South Portico of the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Greco-Roman wrestler Rulon Gardner and pole vaulter Stacy Dragila, U.S. Olympic Team; and Greco-Roman wrestler Alexandre Karelin, Russian Olympic Team.

### **Statement on the 25th Anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**

*November 29, 2000*

Today I join millions of Americans in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a landmark civil rights law that opens the doors to education and success for more than 6 million American children each year. As we recognize this milestone, we know that education is the key to our children's future, and it is the IDEA that ensures all children with disabilities have access to a free, appropriate public education. We have seen tremendous progress over the past 25 years—students with disabilities are graduating from high school, completing college, and entering the competitive workforce in record numbers—and we must continue this progress over the next 25 years and beyond.

The benefits of the IDEA stretch far beyond just those with disabilities. The new technologies and teaching methods developed to assist students with disabilities are improving education for all students. Three-quarters of children with disabilities are learning in classrooms alongside their non-disabled peers, contributing to the diversity that is one of America's greatest strengths. This level of success would not be possible without the dedicated involvement of parents and educators who are committed to a strong educational system for all children, and I salute their dedication and accomplishments.

In this time of record prosperity, with more opportunities for success than ever before, we must ensure that all of our children have the education that will allow them to go to college, get good jobs, and play active roles in their communities. America's ongoing commitment to this principle, embodied in the IDEA, is both an economic and moral imperative for our future.

### **Statement Announcing Negotiations on a Comprehensive Bilateral Free Trade Agreement With Chile**

*November 29, 2000*

The United States of America (USA) and Chile have agreed to start negotiations on a comprehensive bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The FTA will build on the progress that has been made by the U.S.-Chile Joint Commission on Trade and Investment that was established during President Clinton's state visit to Chile in April 1998. This endeavor reflects our mutual commitment to advancing free and open trade and investment in the Americas and around the world.

The USA and Chile are both strong supporters of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations. The negotiation of a bilateral free trade agreement between us will provide further impetus for the FTAA negotiations. The United States and Chile reaffirm their strong commitment to the multilateral trading system and the launch of a new round in 2001. The FTA will include labor and environmental provisions along the lines of the U.S.-Jordan FTA.

I have directed Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky to assign a high priority to advancing negotiations for an FTA.

### **Statement on the Death of Henry B. Gonzalez**

*November 29, 2000*

Hillary and I were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Congressman Henry Gonzalez.

Congressman Gonzalez was a trailblazer and a leader for all of Texas. From his elec-

tion to the San Antonio city council and the Texas Senate to his successful career in Congress, Henry spent more than 40 years serving his State and his country. He was the first Hispanic to serve in the Texas State Senate in more than 100 years and the first Mexican-American elected from Texas to serve in Congress.

As chairman of the House Banking Committee, Congressman Gonzalez championed the issues of America's working families, fighting tirelessly for economic justice, civil rights, banking reform, and affordable housing. His work over the decades was recognized with countless honors and awards, including the 1994 John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage award. Henry will forever be remembered as a man of conviction and humility who devoted his life to lifting people up and building bridges of understanding.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Bertha, his children, and his family and friends.

### **Remarks on the Anniversary of the Brady Handgun and Violence Prevention Act**

*November 30, 2000*

Thank you very much. It's ironic; I might say that I was not able to come and receive the award from Jim and Sarah because I was at Sharm al-Sheikh in Egypt, trying to stop a different kind of shooting. And I'm delighted and honored to receive it today.

I want to thank Secretary Summers for his work and the Treasury Under Secretary for Enforcement, Jim Johnson; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Director, Brad Buckles. I can't say enough about what Janet Reno and her Deputy Attorney General, Eric Holder, have done over these years to forge a serious partnership with local law enforcement and to move beyond rhetoric to real policies that would work to make America a safer place.

I want to thank the people here from Handgun Control and the Million Mom March and the other gun safety organizations, and the leaders from the religious community and the National Council of Black Churches, the American Jewish Congress,

and law enforcement. And of course, especially, I want to thank Jim and Sarah for all these years of courage and determination.

A few years ago, I gave Jim the Medal of Freedom, and not very long ago we actually named the White House briefing room in his honor. But no honor can possibly repay Jim and Sarah Brady for what they have done to give America a safer future. And I'm very grateful to them.

I want to say, Secretary Summers said that before he became Treasury Secretary, he knew about the economy, but he didn't know much about the law enforcement responsibilities of the Treasury Department. But actually, the work required to have an impact on both challenges is not all that different. People ask me all the time; they say, "You had such a brilliant economic team, you know: Summers; Rubin; Sperling; Bentsen. What great new idea did you bring to Washington, to economic policy management?" And I always say, "Arithmetic." [Laughter]

We brought arithmetic back to Washington, and, you know, 2 and 2 is 4 again. [Laughter] And miraculously, the deficit went down, and interest rates went down, and the economy—what do I mean by that? Former Governor of New York Mario Cuomo used to say we campaign in poetry, but we must govern in prose, which is a fancy way of saying ideas matter and policies matter, and rhetoric becomes less important than actually what you do and whether it has a solid foundation in fact. So when I say arithmetic, it's really a shorthand way of saying we got back to clear-headed, fact-based economic policymaking.

Well, the same thing is true when it comes to criminal justice and safe streets. Most people who run for office know that they will be all right as long as they talk tough and as long as they say, "Show me another bill to raise the penalties, and I will vote for it." And because there are all kinds of countervailing pressures out there, if you actually want to do something, as we have seen, and because Washington is a long way from the streets of almost every city, except the one in which we live, people can get elected and stay elected, from the White House and the Congress, by having the right poetry, even if there is no prose.

And that was essentially the problem, in my judgment, with Federal criminal justice policy. I was—the first elected office I ever held was attorney general; 24 years ago this January I became attorney general of my State. And to me, this was always serious business, and I never believed that there was necessarily a liberal or a conservative position. It seemed to me that we ought to do what would work to protect the lives of our people, to give our police officers the tools they need to do the job, to empower community organizations, and to do what makes sense.

So we started a serious debate almost 8 years ago now about what it would take to make America safer. It was a genuine and honest debate, and like all debates, it has been marked by a conflict and often, I think, by people who forget about the arithmetic of crime control and safe streets.

Jim and Sarah and so many of you had been battling for the Brady bill for 7 years. The vast majority of the American people supported it, but we all know why it wasn't law. And I have plead guilty before to this, so let me plead guilty again. In 1982, when I was running for Governor in my State—and I had been elected in '78 and defeated in the Reagan landslide in '80 and then trying to get reelected—I endorsed the Brady bill—1982, before it was called the Brady bill.

I said, "You know, we ought to have a 3-day waiting period. We ought to do background checks." And I sparked the awfulest firestorm; you can imagine how popular that was in Arkansas in 1982. [Laughter] And I wimped out, just like a lot of other people have. And I got elected Governor, and I went on and did my business, and we did a lot of good things, in education, in the economy, and other things. But I never quite got over it.

And I realized that if I became President, I would have a chance to talk to the Nation about these issues in a way that no one else could and that we had a chance, because of the work that Jim and Sarah had done, to actually have an impact and to get this done. And obviously, the votes in Congress were there to pass it. But it wasn't just about Congress passing the law and my signing it. We also had a genuine discussion, a serious effort



to think about not what the poetry of safe rhetoric, when it comes to crime, is but what the prose of hard work would be.

One of the main reasons I asked Janet Reno to be Attorney General is that she had been one of the most innovative prosecutors in a big, difficult environment in the United States. Hillary's brother had worked as a public defender in one of the drug courts that she set up, that diverted thousands of people from prison who were first-time, nonviolent drug offenders, but also helped the crime rate to go down because they were people who got off drugs; and if they didn't, then they had to go to prison. And now under her leadership, we've helped set up hundreds and hundreds of these drug courts across America—another part of this serious debate about what it really takes to make America a safer place.

And we've had a world of help. We've had great people in the United States Congress, like Senator Joe Biden and many others. We've had law enforcement officials, community leaders, clergies, and moms joining hands. So this is a safer country than it was 8 years ago. Now the cynics say, "Well, the crime rate always goes down when the economy improves." That's true. But if you look at past trends, the crime rate has gone down more this time and gun crime, as you heard, down 35 percent, because of the other things that were done.

The Brady law—we finished the first 100,000 police ahead of schedule and under budget, and we're now in the process of putting another 50,000 police on the street in the highest crime neighborhoods in the country. It is something that I hope will be continued.

We also had, after the Brady law and the crime bill, in addition to 100,000 police, the ban on assault weapons and support for the most innovative local crime-fighting strategies to keep kids out of trouble in the first place. And one of the things I'm really proud of in our education budget is, we've gone from funding zero to 800,000 kids in after-school programs in America in the last 3 years. And if this education budget passes when the Congress comes back next week, we'll double that. And make no mistake

about it, that's also a profoundly important element of this whole debate.

So America is a different place than it was 8 years ago, in many areas, but certainly in the area of crime: crime down 8 years in a row, for the first time ever, the lowest overall rate in 26 years; the lowest murder rate in 33 years. In addition to the prevention measures that I mentioned, Federal prosecutions are up, as well. And today there is more good news. According to the latest figures, the Brady bill has now stopped more than 611,000 felons, fugitives, and domestic abusers from buying guns.

Now, the opponents of the Brady bill, who are still alive and well, said at the time that it would be an enormous burden on hunters and sport shooters, law-abiding citizens that wanted weapons in self-defense, and it wouldn't make a lick of difference. But after all these years, we now know nobody's missed a day in the deer woods; nobody's missed a sport-shooting contest; and it sure made a difference. It made 611,000 differences. That means more children are alive; more police officers are alive; more citizens are alive; fewer people wounded like Jim.

I'll never forget going to Chicago one day to do an event on this, and we did it near a trauma center where most of the people there were young people who were victims of gunshot wounds. And the speaker there was a local Chicago policeman who went through a very, very dangerous tour in Vietnam and never got a nick, and had 11 bullets in his body because of his service in the streets of Chicago. I'll never forget that guy as long as I live, standing there with all those young kids that were going to spend the rest of their lives in wheelchairs.

Now, this is the record. But I want to say two things as you think about the future and I return to the role of vocal citizen. It's already been said, but I want to emphasize it again. This country is still too dangerous for our children. The crime rate is still too high. The level of violence we put up with is still unacceptable. Thirty thousand Americans are lost to gunfire a year, about 10 kids every day. That's from down from 13. That's really good, but it's still 10.

So nobody believes America is as safe as it should be. And if I could go back to the economic analogy, I have said for the last year the American people ought to set big goals because the country is in good shape. And economically, I think one of our goals ought to be to get the country out of debt for the first time since 1835, because that will keep interest rates down and keep the economy going and help the police do their jobs for safer streets. But I think that we ought to say in this area that we do not intend to stop working until America is the safest big country in the world. We do not have to accept—[*applause*].

Now, I want to talk a little today about what I think the next steps should be, because I think that's the way we should mark the anniversary of the Brady law every year. Every year I think we ought to gather, and when I'm not President anymore, we ought to do it anyway—[*laughter*—and I hope you'll have a friendly forum in which to do it here. But if you don't, go somewhere else—[*laughter*—and measure where you are and where you want to go.

First, we have to make law enforcement more effective in this area. So today I'm asking Attorney General Reno and Secretary Summers to build on the success of the national instacheck background system to develop a new system to enhance enforcement of the gun laws by notifying State and local law enforcement officials when felons and other restricted individuals try to buy illegal guns. We should be notifying them immediately, something that we haven't been doing.

Second, even as we work hard to keep criminals from getting guns through the front door of a gun shop, we should do even more to lock the back door by cracking down on illegal gun traffickers. An enormous percentage of these illegal gun sales are done by a relatively small number of people.

Secretary Summers just spoke of the national initiative we started 4 years ago to build on the success of cities like Boston in tracing guns seized from young criminals. Today I got the third annual report from that initiative, detailed findings on over 64,000 crime guns recovered by law enforcement and sent to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,

and Firearms for tracing. The data paints a clear picture of where juveniles and criminals are getting their guns, how they're getting them, and what kind of guns they're getting. It shows that kids and guns continue to present a serious crime problem; about 45 percent of all crime guns were recovered from young people.

Now, ATF and its State and local partners are putting all of this trace information together so that we can identify the gun traffickers and get them off the streets. In the last year alone, ATF initiated almost 900 criminal trafficking investigations. And now we're going to expand these efforts in the coming year to 12 more cities, from Newark to Nashville, from Oklahoma City to Anaheim, to find, to prosecute, to punish people who pedal guns illegally to our kids.

Third, I want to ask Congress again to do two things when they come back next week. First, send me a budget that actually funds our proposal for the largest national gun enforcement initiative in history, resources for 500 ATF agents and inspectors, and hundreds more Federal, State, and local gun prosecutors. And second, close the gun show loophole. Close the gun show loophole in the Brady law, require child safety locks on handguns, and stop the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips, which enable guns already in the United States legally to be altered so that they get around the assault weapons ban.

Now this, I think, is very important. Where are the American people on this? The results are both encouraging and troubling. Earlier this month, the voters of Oregon and Colorado, in overwhelming majorities—I think 65 percent in one place and 70 percent in Colorado, where they've gone through the searing experience of Columbine—voted to approve initiatives to require background checks at gun shows.

Yet, let's be frank, folks. Supporters of these measures are still very vulnerable if they happen to be candidates for Congress or running for Congress in places where fear can be used to make people think that they're for something they're not. And so I want to say to you what I have said so many times. I decided that I could probably do this for America because I was a Southern white

male who first shot a .22 before he was a teenager, and that I thought I could go out and talk to people about this.

Janet Reno and I were talking on the way in here about her going to a sporting club, when she proposed the gun safety measure as prosecutor, and sitting there and spending 2 hours with people. And finally, when she left, they were for what she wanted to do.

Every time we propose something like this, it becomes part of some great culture war in America, and it becomes a pretext for fundraising, campaigning, getting people to vote against their own interest because they're afraid. And I thought maybe I should do this in part because I felt like I could talk to the people that were being stampeded in election after election. But it's still a real serious problem. All you have to do is look around the country and look at the huge disconnect between the votes in Colorado and Oregon on the initiative and the votes in culturally similar places on specific elections.

Now, does that mean we ought to fold up our tent and go home? No. Does it mean that we have no choice but to try to put an initiative on the ballot in every State and get the people who disagree with us to spend their money on something that's at least specific? [*Laughter*] Not necessarily, no. But it does mean, if we want elected Representatives who come from challenging environments to stand up and vote for things that we know make sense, we have to keep working to learn how to speak to people who are good people, who were subject to being stampeded. We have to look for ways to make the specifics our friend. The facts are our friends. If the facts were not our friends, this initiative would not have passed 70 to 30 in Colorado, a clearly Republican State. And if you ask people to identify themselves out there, most people would identify themselves as conservatives, but they dealt with the facts.

So I just want to encourage you not to stop but to keep trying to become more effective by not engaging in the rhetorical wars with people who disagree with us, but going straight to the people, themselves, who vote, who either vote in these referenda or vote in the elections for Congress and for Governor and legislature, and talk to them about

the facts, because the facts are our friends. Fear is our foe.

And I think this is so important, because we just can't walk away from all this now. We've got a good head of steam going. And nobody—nobody—has proposed a single thing yet that I'm aware of that would keep a hunter out of the deer woods or a sports shooter out of a contest. But all these things would make America a much safer place. And you just have to keep working at it, and you can't be deterred. But you must be, also, effective. And you have to realize that when people get scared, they are liable to resolve doubt against you. But when they understand what the deal is, they're going to resolve doubt in your favor. The facts are your friends.

So I want to encourage you to do that. Jim and Sarah have shown amazing perseverance and courage. They've kept their spirits up. They've kept our spirits up. They've battled on against the odds. That's what we have to do. But I don't want you to worry about being mad or being angry or even getting even. I just want you to understand that you can win the battle, but you've got to be smart, and you've got to be willing to keep working through setbacks, and you have to be willing to trust the good common sense and fundamental decency of the American people.

If you can get through all the smoke-screens and argue the facts and if you look over the last 8 years—if someone had told me 8 years ago that crime would go down every year, that it would be at a 26- or 27-year low, that so many more people would be alive, that we'd actually pass the Brady law and the assault weapons ban and we'd be working on 150,000 police, we'd have 800,000 kids federally funded in after-school programs, I would have been pretty happy.

But now, after 8 years, I have to tell you, I still think more about the kids that are left out and left behind. I still think more about those that have been victimized instead of those that have been avoided, because I know we have to keep going until this is the safest big country in the world.

So I implore you—I implore you—do not get discouraged. We know what works. We know what the arithmetic answer is, and we

just have to keep after it. We should be gratified and happy in this holiday season that America is safer, but we should be resolved to make it the safest big country in the world.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:05 p.m. in the Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to former White House Press Secretary James S. Brady, who was wounded in the 1981 assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan, chair, Hand Gun Control, Inc., and his wife, Sarah; and former Secretaries of the Treasury Robert E. Rubin and Lloyd Bentsen.

### **Statement on the Death of Robert G. Damus**

*November 30, 2000*

I am deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Bob Damus, General Counsel for the Office of Management and Budget. Bob made invaluable contributions to the common good in his 20 years of Government service, embodying the very finest qualities of our Nation's career civil servants.

Bob's fine intellect and the breadth of his knowledge were respected throughout Government and beyond. This administration and the American people benefited greatly from his keen judgment and wise counsel, and he served my two predecessors with the same loyalty, dedication, and commitment to excellence.

With a distinguished academic background, Bob chose Government service out of a deep desire to contribute to the public good. In recognition of his outstanding service, he twice received the Presidential Rank Award as a Distinguished Executive, the highest honor for career civil servants in the Senior Executive Service.

Bob's probity and integrity were unsurpassed. He was a supremely decent man, and his memory will serve as an inspiration to us all.

### **Proclamation 7382—World AIDS Day, 2000**

*November 30, 2000*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

As the global community observes the 13th annual World AIDS Day, we remember with sorrow our friends, loved ones, neighbors, and colleagues who have lost their lives to AIDS, and we reaffirm our shared commitment to carry on the fight until our battle against this devastating disease is won.

We can be proud of our efforts over the past 8 years. My Administration has worked aggressively to increase funding for AIDS research; to find better treatments, a vaccine, and a cure; to enhance HIV prevention efforts; and to help ensure that those living with HIV and AIDS receive the health care they need. Federal funding for such activities has doubled on the national front and tripled internationally, reaching nearly \$11 billion last year alone, and I recently named a Presidential Envoy for AIDS Cooperation.

Building on this commitment, last month I signed into law the Ryan White CARE Act Amendments of 2000, improving the Federal Government's most comprehensive program for providing services to Americans living with HIV/AIDS. Our investment is producing results and, thanks to new treatments, many people with AIDS are living longer and experiencing a better quality of life than ever before.

But our battle is far from over. Last year, 3 million people died from HIV/AIDS—the highest global total reported since the pandemic began. Current estimates indicate that more than 50 million people have been infected with HIV since the virus was first identified more than 15 years ago, and some 21.8 million people have died from HIV/AIDS. The number of children orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS is estimated to be more than 13.2 million.

Because the spread of HIV has reached catastrophic proportions in many areas of our global community, AIDS has become a national and international security threat. The United States is working hard to develop partnerships with other nations and to mobilize a greatly expanded global response to address HIV/AIDS through our Leadership and Investment in Fighting an Epidemic Initiative. And this week, we will host a White House Summit of Religious Leaders to underscore the important role the world's faith communities play in preventing the spread of HIV and in caring for those affected by HIV. Many care and treatment programs around the world are operated by religious-based organizations, and often these groups provide the only available source of care. The summit will highlight successful efforts and raise awareness of our moral obligations in addressing HIV and AIDS.

Our goals are clear, and our resolve is firm. Working with our partners at home and abroad, we will triumph over the tragedy of HIV/AIDS and ensure a bright, healthy future for our children.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2000, as World AIDS Day. I invite the Governors of the States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of the other territories subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in reaffirming our commitment to defeating HIV and AIDS. I encourage every American to participate in appropriate commemorative programs and ceremonies in workplaces, houses of worship, and other community centers, to reach out to protect and educate our people, and to provide hope and help to all who are living with HIV and AIDS.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:09 a.m., December 1, 2000]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 4.

### **Remarks at the G&P Foundation Angel Ball 2000 in New York City**

*November 30, 2000*

Well, first of all, thank you, Denise, for the saxophone. I'll have a little more time to play it in a week or two. [Laughter] And thank you for the wonderful gift. But let me say to all of you, I think that we should be here honoring Denise for remembering her daughter in such a magnificent way.

And I also want to thank Philip for all that you have done to make this evening possible. And I want to thank the other honorees tonight, for the power of their examples. Michael Jackson, who has been so kind to us, thank you for the wonderful thing you said, and Sir Paul McCartney. I don't know, I got the saxophone at an event which honored two of the greatest musical geniuses of the 20th century. I don't know what that says. [Laughter]

And I would like to thank Her Majesty Queen Noor, who has been a wonderful friend to Hillary and to me and, I think, is one of the truly great citizens of the world alive today. I thank her.

And thank you, Larry King, for being here. I forgive you for using this occasion to hit me up for our exit interview. [Laughter] I am not a very good story. You should be down in Florida doing interviews tonight. [Laughter]

Let me say to all of you, I want to just echo a thing or two Hillary said. I love this event. I had a wonderful time 2 years ago. I've had a terrific time tonight. But I look forward to the time when we will be forced to find another reason to meet, because the war on cancer will have been won.

Like all of you, I am tired of burying my family members and friends from diseases that it seems that we ought to be able to find a way to cure or even to prevent. It won't be long now, and when that happy day comes, all of you can take pride in knowing

that you did something to hasten the moment.

I can tell you that we're already making impressive progress. Earlier this year we learned that for the very first time, cancer deaths in the United States are on the decline. Researchers are now unlocking the secrets of the human genome; revolutionary new treatments are sure to follow. There are now medicines being tested now, not only to cure but to actually prevent various kinds of cancers.

Now, we actually know that the average human body is built to last more than 100 years. And the younger women in this audience who are still having children, in your childbearing years you will be having babies with a life expectancy of 90 years or more, because of the medical research that is now going on.

But it's important for the rest of us to do our part. And our administration, with Hillary and the Vice President in the lead, has worked hard. We've doubled research over the last 8 years. We have speeded the approval process for cancer drugs. We've involved more and more Medicare patients in cancer screenings and test trials. And we've extended coverage to uninsured women with breast and cervical cancer. But there's a lot more to do.

What I want you to understand is that all of us, and mostly you—I have been on the public payroll for some years—but those of us that are fortunate enough to have some income are always given all these opportunities to make charitable donations, and you always hope that the money you give will have some beneficial impact. But what I want you to understand is that the sequencing this year of the human genome is a truly seminal event in the entire history of science.

We have already identified, scientists have, the problems in the gene structure that lead women to be much more vulnerable to breast cancer. And it is just the beginning. There has never been a better time to invest money in cancer research, ever. And it is highly likely, even though none of us can know when the next discoveries are coming or which scientists will make them, it is highly likely that the money you invest in this project will actually directly lead to the dramatic acceleration

of cures for cancer, preventions for cancer, and the saving of other children's lives.

And so again I say, thank you, Denise. Thank you for everything you have done to make it possible for Hillary and me to serve. Thank you to those of you who have been so good to my wife. And thank you, Senator Schumer, for showing up. They will be a great team, and I'm very, very grateful for that. And as I leave office, let me say to all of you—I thank Michael Jackson for what he said—this has been the greatest honor imaginable for me to serve.

But the thing that really matters about this country is not who the President is; it's what kind of people we are. The thing about any free society is that it's the citizens who matter—the decisions they make, the work they do, the dreams they dream. There has never been a better time to dream of curing every kind of cancer or to give.

So, even though I won't be President next year, I hope you'll be here, giving next year, because it will really make a difference.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:30 p.m. in the Broadway Ballroom at the New York Marriot Marquis Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Denise Rich, cofounder, G&P Foundation, and her son-in-law, Philip Aouad; musicians Michael Jackson and Paul McCartney; Queen Noor of Jordan; and CNN talk show host Larry King, who served as master of ceremonies.

### **Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting an Alternative Plan for Federal Employee Locality-Based Comparability Payments**

*November 30, 2000*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

I am transmitting an alternative plan for Federal employee locality-based comparability payments (locality pay) for 2001.

Federal employees are the key to effective Government performance. During the last 8 years, the number of Federal employees has declined while their responsibilities have stayed the same or increased. Nonetheless, recent surveys show the American public believes it is now getting better quality and more responsible service from our Federal

employees. We need to provide them fair and equitable compensation to recognize their important role, and to enable the Federal Government to continue to attract and retain a high-quality workforce.

Under title 5, United States Code, most Federal civilian employees would receive a two-part pay raise in January 2001: (1) a 2.7 percent base salary raise linked to the part of the Employment Cost Index (ECI) that deals with changes in the wages and salaries of private industry workers; and (2) a locality pay raise, based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' salary surveys of non-Federal employers in local pay areas, that would cost about 12.3 percent of payroll. Thus, on a cost-of-payroll basis, the total Federal employee pay increase for most employees would be about 15 percent in 2001.

For each part of the two-part pay increase, title 5 gives me the authority to implement an alternative pay adjustment plan if I view the pay adjustment that would otherwise take effect as inappropriate because of "national emergency or serious economic conditions affecting the general welfare." Over the past three decades, Presidents have used this or similar authority for most annual Federal pay raises.

In evaluating "an economic condition affecting the general welfare," the law directs me to consider such economic measures as the Index of Leading Economic Indicators, the Gross National Product, the unemployment rate, the budget deficit, the Consumer Price Index, the Producer Price Index, the Employment Cost Index, and the Implicit Price Deflator for Personal Consumption Expenditures.

Earlier this year, I decided that I would implement—effective in January 2001—the full 2.7 percent base salary adjustment. As a result, it was not necessary to transmit an alternative pay plan by the legal deadline (August 31) for that portion of the pay raise.

In assessing the appropriate locality pay adjustment for 2001, I reviewed the indicators cited above along with other major economic indicators. As noted above, the full locality pay increases, when combined with the 2.7 percent base salary increase, would produce a total Federal civilian payroll increase of about 15 percent for most employ-

ees. In fiscal year (FY) 2001 alone, this increase would add \$9.8 billion above the cost of the 3.7 percent increase I proposed in the fiscal 2001 Budget.

A 15 percent increase in Federal pay would mark a fundamental change of our successful policy of fiscal discipline, and would invite serious economic risks—in terms of the workings of the Nation's labor markets; inflation; the costs of maintaining Federal programs; and the impact of the Federal budget on the economy as a whole.

First, an across-the-board 15 percent increase in Federal pay scales would be disruptive to labor markets across the country. This increase would be three to four times the recent average annual changes in private-sector compensation, built into the base of the pay structure not just for 2001, but for subsequent years as well. With job markets already tight and private firms reporting great difficulties in attracting and retaining skilled employees, this increase in Federal salaries could pull prospective job seekers away from private employment opportunities.

Second, in the face of such a large Federal pay increase, private firms would almost certainly react by increasing their own wage offers. Thus, beyond the labor-market disruption of such a Federal pay increase, there would follow a serious risk of inflation; and that risk would far exceed the direct effects of the Federal pay raise taken in isolation. Pay rates economy-wide have already enticed a record percentage of the adult population into the labor force and paid employment. There are few unemployed or underemployed workers available for hire; if private firms need additional labor, they must raise their wage offers to attract workers from other firms. Such bidding wars for labor—which constitutes roughly two-thirds of business costs in this economy—have been at or near the core of all inflationary outbursts in our recent history. To date, intense competitive pressures have prevented private firms from allowing their wage offers to step out of line with productivity gains, and inflationary pressures have remained contained.

However, a shock arising outside of the competitive labor market itself—such as an administratively determined Federal pay increase—could convince private business managers that they must increase their offers beyond the current norms. In the past to reverse accelerating inflation, the Nation paid an enormous toll through policies designed to slow the economy and reduce the pressure on prices. In numerous instances, the result was recession and sharp increases in unemployment. With labor markets as tight as they are we should not undertake a policy likely to shock the labor market.

Third, Federal program managers are already under considerable pressure to meet their budgets, while still providing quality service to the taxpayers. Increasing the Federal employment costs at such an extraordinary rate would render those budgets inadequate to provide the planned level of services. Appropriations for the coming fiscal year have already been legislated for much of the Federal Government, and all sides hope that spending bills for the remaining agencies will pass in the very near future. In particular, agencies that have the greatest responsibility for person-to-person service—the Social Security Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Veterans Affairs healthcare programs, to name just three—could not be expected to bear double-digit pay increases without the most thorough review and adjustment of their budgets.

Finally, despite the current budget surpluses, the Federal Government continues to face substantial budgetary challenges. When my Administration took office in January 1993, we faced the largest budget deficit in the Nation's history—over \$290 billion in fiscal year (FY) 1992. By the projections of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), and every other authority, the deficit would only get bigger. Furthermore, under both of these projections, the public debt, and the interest burden from that debt, were expected to be in a vicious upward cycle.

While we have pulled the budget back from this crisis, and in fact we have enjoyed the first budget surpluses since 1969, adverse budgetary forces are just a few years away.

The Social Security system will come under increasing pressure with the impending retirement of the large baby-boom generation. In addition, the aging of the population will increase costs for Medicare and Medicaid. If we become complacent because of the current budget surplus and increase spending now, the surplus could well be gone even before the baby-boom generation retires.

My Administration has put these budgetary challenges front and center. A 15 percent Federal pay increase, built into the Government's cost base for all succeeding years, would be a dangerous step away from budget discipline. The budgetary restraint that produced the current budget surpluses must be maintained if we are to keep the budget sound into the retirement years of the baby boom generation.

Therefore, I have determined that the total civilian raise of 3.7 percent that I proposed in my 2001 Budget remains appropriate. This raise matches the 3.7 percent basic pay increase that I proposed for military members in my 2001 Budget, and that was enacted in the FY 2001 Defense Authorization Act. Given the 2.7 percent base salary increase, the total increase of 3.7 percent allows an amount equal to 1.0 percent of payroll for increases in locality payments.

Accordingly, I have determined that:

Under the authority of section 5304a of title 5, United States Code, locality-based comparability payments in the amounts set forth on the attached table shall become effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2001. When compared with the payments currently in effect, these comparability payments will increase the General Schedule payroll by about 1.0 percent.

Finally, the law requires that I include in this report an assessment of how my decisions will affect the Government's ability to recruit and retain well-qualified employees. I do not believe this will have any material impact on the quality of our workforce. If the needs arise, the Government can use



many pay tools—such as recruitment bonuses, retention allowances, and special salary rates—to maintain the high-quality workforce that serves our Nation so very well.

Sincerely,

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 1.

### **Remarks on World AIDS Day** *December 1, 2000*

Thank you very much. Thank you. Belynda, thank you for your wonderful remarks. I'm not going anywhere. I'm just going to be in a different line of work, you know. *[Laughter]* I'll still be there for you.

I want you all to know, this remarkable woman actually had a minor car accident yesterday and was told not to come here, but she showed up anyway. And that's the kind of commitment we need from people.

Archbishop Ndugane, I'm delighted to be on the podium with you in this beautiful chapel at Howard. And as you know, I admired your predecessor, Archbishop Tutu, my friend, and I can see he has a worthy successor. Your remarks were wise, and we thank you, sir, very much for what you said.

I thank President Swygert for making us welcome at Howard. And I would like to acknowledge a couple of people—first, a Member of our United States Congress from Oakland, California, and the champion of America, doing more in the global AIDS effort, Representative Barbara Lee. Thank you very much. Thank you. I also was honored to ride over here with our former United Nations Ambassador and Congressman and my great friend Andrew Young. I thank him for his part here.

And Belinda, I thank you for what you said about Sandy Thurman. I knew she wasn't a Barbie doll when I appointed her. *[Laughter]* She had actually spent a lot of her life working in Atlanta at the grassroots with people with HIV and AIDS. And I tried to fill a lot of positions in Government with people who don't often get to serve, because some-

times the best qualified people to serve are the people that are out there on the front lines. And if they spend their lives on the front lines, they don't have enough time to play up to the politicians so they can get these appointments. But somehow I found Sandy, and she's been wonderful, and I thank her and all the members of our Advisory Council, many of whom are here today.

I want to offer a special word of welcome to the distinguished religious leaders and citizens who have come here from around the world, including the First Lady of Lesotho, Mrs. Mathato Mosisili. And we have, I think, 23 others—we have 23 others here from Africa alone, who are here to focus on the HIV/AIDS issue as part of the State Department's international visitors program. We have religious leaders here from Africa, from Asia, from Latin America, and we thank them all for being here.

Today we have come together—people from all over the world, from different circumstances—to ask ourselves a simple, stark question: whether we are prepared to do what is necessary to save millions of lives, to save the lives of those who are living with HIV and AIDS and all those who might yet avoid it. How we answer will depend upon how well we work together as partners across lines of nationality, faith, religion, color, sexual orientation. It will depend upon, in equal measure, our will and our wallet.

And it will depend upon, in some places, still, sadly, going beyond denial. I don't know whether this works when translated into French and the other languages that are here, but my daughter's generation has a wonderful saying, that denial is not just a river in Egypt. *[Laughter]* And we even have to laugh, you know, sometimes just to keep going. But that also is important, and I want to highlight some of the heroes in that struggle later.

In the United States there are millions of people involved in the struggle against HIV and AIDS. They are in clinics and community-based organizations across the land, offering information and testing to those at risk, treatment and care to nearly a million people living with HIV, dignity to thousands who are dying. Churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples here are, more and

more, speaking out with a single, clear voice about the importance of prevention as well as care.

For the last few years I have tried to put our Government on the side of this fight. We created an Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health, and the White House Office of AIDS National Policy. We have the first-ever national AIDS strategy. We have the first biomedical research plan, and we have expanded health insurance options for people with HIV and AIDS.

Our overall Federal funding has more than doubled over the last 8 years, and funding for care is up almost 400 percent; help to buy drugs in this country up more than 1,000 percent. As Congress comes back to work, I hope that it will ensure that our global and domestic AIDS programs actually receive the funding increases they are currently slated to receive this year, thanks to people like Representative Barbara Lee.

As Belynda Dunn's story illustrates, marrying our money to our intentions is a formula for real progress here in the United States, a formula for delivering more powerful anti-HIV drugs to more Americans, for helping more HIV-positive pregnant women avoid passing the virus to their babies, for providing better access to health care and housing for those living with HIV. It is a formula, in other words, for people living longer and better lives.

Today, the mortality rate for HIV and AIDS in the United States is down more than 70 percent since 1995. The death rate from the infection is at its lowest rate since 1987. For those of you here from our country who have worked on this, you can be justifiably proud. But we must be humbled by how very far we all have to go, especially around the world.

Today's reality is much worse than the worst case scenarios of just 10 years ago. At the beginning of the 1990's, health experts told us that between 15 million and 20 million people would be living with HIV this year. Well, the real number is 36 million. The religious leaders from around the world who are here understand that these numbers mean something quite stark in human terms, not only for the individuals and the families

but, as the Archbishop intimated, for whole nations.

When the disease threatens to triple child mortality and to reduce life expectancy by 20 years in some African countries, it is time to say that AIDS is also a moral crisis. When South Africa's GDP—listen to this—South Africa's GDP is expected to be 17 percent lower in 2010 because of AIDS, it is time to say that AIDS is an economic crisis. When 10 times more Africans died of AIDS last year than in all the continent's wars combined and when the fastest-growing infection rates are now in Eastern Europe and the nations of the former Soviet Union—complicated in many countries by a virtual breakdown of the public health systems there—where nations are already struggling against great odds to build prosperity and democracy, it is time to say that AIDS is also an international security crisis.

Once we recognize that AIDS is all these things, it becomes crystal clear that we have to use every available tool to fight it and that the United States, because we have been blessed at this particular moment in history with exceptional prosperity, has an extra responsibility to take a leadership role.

Many developing countries are doing remarkable things to help themselves. By focusing its resources on prevention, Uganda became the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to reverse its own epidemic, nearly halving its HIV prevalence. But in too many nations, resources are simply insufficient, and the gap between what people want to do and what they can afford to do is denying millions a chance to survive the onslaught. Together, we must do more to close the gap.

Today our National Institutes of Health is releasing the first-ever strategic plan for international AIDS research, a \$100 million blueprint for pursuing new research opportunities with universities in over 50 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America. Our administration has also launched the LIFE initiative, that in the last 2 years will likely triple U.S. investment in international HIV-AIDS efforts.

That is why we fought for and won passage of the global HIV/AIDS and TB Relief Act, which authorizes additional funding for prevention, care, and vaccine development, and

why I signed an Executive order to help make AIDS drugs more affordable in sub-Saharan Africa, and why we are pushing Congress to pass—to respond to the Archbishop's comment—a vaccine tax credit and to put more resources behind the World Bank's AIDS trust fund.

Right now, it is a problem for our pharmaceutical companies because they know that while there is an enormous need for an AIDS vaccine, the people who need it the worst are the least able to pay for it. And we know that research is very expensive. So the best way we can help get the research done—we get the medicine, and then we'll worry about how to get it out there; we can do that, but we have to get the breakthrough first—is, in effect, gives these companies a tax credit for the research they do, so that the taxpayers share a hefty portion of the cost. And I hope and pray that the Congress will agree to adopt that when they come back in just a few days, or early next year at the very latest.

The Peace Corps is training every one of its 2,400 volunteers in Africa, every one of them, as prevention counselors. And the issue of HIV and AIDS in developing countries was put on the agenda this year for the annual G-8 Summit. I also made it an important part of our relationship with the European Union, and I have worked hard, as the Archbishop said, for debt relief and for mobilizing billions of dollars for the fight against AIDS. And finally, that is why the United States placed HIV and AIDS squarely before both the U.N. Security Council and the United Nations Millennium Summit.

This effort is now on the international agenda. We've got a long way to go, but those of you who worked hard to put it on the world's agenda should also know that you have succeeded, and we're only going to go forward, not backward, now.

Now, despite these efforts, we all know a lot more is needed. Much, much more is needed to make drugs for AIDS and related infectious diseases more affordable and accessible everywhere. I told you, just in the United States, with all of our wealth, we increased funding to help people buy drugs here in this country by a 1,000 percent, tenfold, in 8 years, and we didn't get a tenfold increase in drugs, because of the increase in

the costs. So we know that we have to do more to help developing nations in this area.

We know that more is needed to ensure that countries have the health care infrastructure needed to effectively deliver the drugs and the treatment. As I said a moment ago, one of the things that really concerns me about the rising rates in some of the nations of the former Soviet Union is that they are accompanied by a real deterioration in the public health systems, systems which once worked under a very different social and political structure and have not yet been replaced by the kind of grassroots community networks that we see in a lot of other developing countries that were not part of a totalitarian system before. And it's something we have to work very, very hard on.

But let's not forget, as so many of you have proved, even limited resources, well used, can go a long way. And let's all remember that, for all their differences, the fight against AIDS here in the United States and the fight abroad have much in common. To begin, we need to understand that patterns of infection in the U.S. now actually mirror those found elsewhere, with the burden falling most heavily on women, young people, poor people, and people of color. That makes our challenges more alike than different, both practically and morally. It means we must be more vigilant, both in targeting our resources and in overcoming prejudice.

Last August, in Nigeria, I was honored to meet John Ibekwe. He was sitting here on the front row, but his daughter started crying, and he took her out, which is a great expression of family values—[*laughter*]—because he knew I was going to introduce him, and he took care of his child, anyway. [*Laughter*]

At an event during my trip, he told the story of his great love for his wife, whom he married even though she was HIV-positive, and family and friends disapproved. He told how he pleaded with and lobbied with his pastor to persuade him that it was the morally right thing to do. He talked about how when he married, his wife became pregnant, and he became HIV-positive. And then he struggled to hold a job in the face of great prejudice. He told us how he saved enough money somehow for the drugs that allowed his baby to be born without the virus.

And when he told this story, the President of Nigeria, President Obasanjo, and his wife, stood on the stage, and they embraced John and his wife. I'm told the image had an electrifying impact all over Nigeria on how people should think about and deal with people with AIDS.

As I said, John and his daughter just walked out, but his wife is here, and I'd like to ask her to stand up. [*Applause*] Thank you. There they are. Thank you. John, with that kind of timing, I think you have a future in politics. [*Laughter*] That was well done.

Now, let me say something very serious. The second thing we have to do is to remember that AIDS everywhere is still 100 percent preventable. Prevention is the most effective tool in our arsenal. No matter the cultural or religious factors to be overcome, families must talk about the facts of life before too many more learn the facts of death. Meeting both these challenges—overcoming stigma and overcoming silence—will be impossible without the moral leadership that in so many places only religious leaders, like those who are here today, can provide.

In our tradition it has been said that AIDS is an epidemic of Biblical proportions. Maybe that refers to the sheer geographic scope or perhaps the numbers of people or the enormous scale of suffering. But I think it also is an apt phrase because it implies that there is a required moral response.

In the New Testament of the Christian Bible, it says that when we bear one another's burdens, we fulfill the law of God. So I ask you to go forth here, remembering that a happy heart is good medicine, too. Do not grow weary in doing this. Know that the sequencing of the human genome will dramatically hasten the day when we will find a medical cure. But in the meanwhile, there are millions, indeed tens and tens of millions, of people whose lives are riding on our common efforts. We can do this if we do it together.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:13 p.m. in the Rankin Chapel at Howard University. In his remarks, he referred to Belynda Dunn, chair, Na-

tional Association of People With AIDS; Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndugane, Archbishop of South Africa, and his predecessor Archbishop Desmond Tutu; H. Patrick Swygert, president, Howard University; John Ibekwe, president, Nigerian Network of People Living With HIV/AIDS; and President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, and his wife, Stella.

### **Statement on a Study on Tobacco Use and Lung and Bronchial Cancer Rates**

*December 1, 2000*

A new study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the California Department of Health Services demonstrates that over the last decade, California's extensive antismoking efforts have resulted in dramatic decreases in lung and bronchial cancer rates. These new findings remind us that the lives of Americans are at stake, not just in California but nationwide, and that comprehensive tobacco prevention and education efforts can make a difference.

More than 400,000 Americans die each year from tobacco-related health diseases, and more than 80 percent of them started smoking as children. That is why my administration developed a nationwide plan to protect our children from the dangers of tobacco, and I have continued to call on Congress to affirm the FDA's authority to implement this plan and take other steps to ensure that our children have healthy, tobacco-free futures.

The tobacco companies spend 10 times more to market their products than all 50 States combined are spending on tobacco prevention and cessation. California's efforts demonstrate the progress that can be made when States use comprehensive tobacco control and prevention approaches, as recommended in the Surgeon General's recent report, "Reducing Tobacco Use." Today I again urge all States to implement these effective approaches, because we must all work together to improve our Nation's health and save our children's lives.

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## **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### **November 27**

The President declared a major disaster in Oklahoma and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on October 21–29.

The White House announced that the President will travel to the United Kingdom and Ireland, December 12–14.

### **November 28**

In the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada concerning the Canadian election.

The President announced his intention to designate Tom D. Crouch as Chair and to appoint Todd M. Hamilton, Martha King, John Howard Morrow, Jr., and Kathryn D. Sullivan as members of the First Flight Centennial Federal Advisory Board.

### **November 29**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with former President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico to congratulate him on the work he did as President. In the afternoon, he met with Vice President Gore.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Nebraska on December 8.

### **November 30**

In the afternoon, the President traveled to New York City, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to appoint Pierre Alexander Chao as a member of the National Commission on the Use of Offsets in Defense Trade.

The President announced his intention to appoint Raymond Gilmartin and Jessica Tuchman Mathews as members of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations.

The President announced his intention to appoint James L. Black as a member of the

Advisory Committee on Expanding Training Opportunities.

The President announced his intention to appoint Arun Bhumitra and John Kuhnle as members of the Board of Trustees of the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation.

### **December 1**

In the morning, the President toured the Whitman-Walker Clinic as part of a World AIDS Day event.

The President announced his intention to appoint James H. Bilbray as a member of the Security Policy Advisory Board.

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## **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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## **Checklist of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

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### **Released November 27**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Jake Siewert

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's upcoming visit to the United Kingdom and Ireland

### **Released November 28**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Jake Siewert

### **Released November 29**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Jake Siewert

### **Released November 30**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Jake Siewert

Announcement: Official U.S. Delegation Representing President Clinton at the Inauguration of the President of Mexico

### ***Released December 1***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Jake Siewert

Transcript of a press briefing by Education Secretary Richard Riley and Deputy Assistant Domestic Policy Barbara Chow on the President's radio address

Announcement: Nation's Highest Science and Technology Honors Awarded

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### **Acts Approved by the President**

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#### ***Approved November 22 \****

H.R. 2346 / Public Law 106-521

To authorize the enforcement by State and local governments of certain Federal Communications Commission regulations regarding use of citizens band radio equipment

H.R. 5633 / Public Law 106-522

District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2001

S. 768 / Public Law 106-523

Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act of 2000

S. 1670 / Public Law 106-524

To revise the boundary of Fort Matanzas National Monument, and for other purposes

S. 1880 / Public Law 106-525

Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act of 2000

S. 1936 / Public Law 106-526

Bend Pine Nursery Land Conveyance Act

S. 2020 / Public Law 106-527

To adjust the boundary of the Natchez Trace Parkway, Mississippi, and for other purposes

S. 2440 / Public Law 106-528

Airport Security Improvement Act of 2000

S. 2485 / Public Law 106-529

Saint Croix Island Heritage Act

S. 2547 / Public Law 106-530

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act of 2000

S. 2712 / Public Law 106-531

Reports Consolidation Act of 2000

S. 2773 / Public Law 106-532

Dairy Market Enhancement Act of 2000

S. 2789 / Public Law 106-533

To amend the Congressional Award Act to establish a Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Board

S. 3164 / Public Law 106-534

Protecting Seniors From Fraud Act

S. 3194 / Public Law 106-535

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 431 North George Street in Millersville, Pennsylvania, as the "Robert S. Walker Post Office"

S. 3239 / Public Law 106-536

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide special immigrant status for certain United States international broadcasting employees

S. 11 / Private Law 106-14

For the relief of Wei Jingsheng

S. 150 / Private Law 106-15

For the relief of Marina Khalina and her son, Albert Miftakhov

S. 276 / Private Law 106-16

For the relief of Sergio Lozano

S. 785 / Private Law 106-17

For the relief of Frances Schochenmaier and Mary Hudson

S. 869 / Private Law 106-18

For the relief of Mina Vahedi Notash

S. 1078 / Private Law 106-19

For the relief of Mrs. Elizabeth Eka Bassey, Emmanuel O. Paul Bassey, and Mary Idongesit Paul Bassey

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\*These laws were not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

S. 1513 / Private Law 106–20

For the relief of Jacqueline Salinas and her children Gabriela Salinas, Alejandro Salinas, and Omar Salinas

S. 2000 / Private Law 106–21

For the relief of Guy Taylor

S. 2002 / Private Law 106–22

For the relief of Tony Lara

S. 2019 / Private Law 106–23

For the relief of Malia Miller

S. 2289 / Private Law 106–24

For the relief of Jose Guadalupe Tellez Pinales